

GLSNRP ACPF in the Great Lakes 2026 Request for Proposals

The Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) in the Great Lakes grants program is offering funding to create targeted outreach plans for agricultural conservation practice siting within the Great Lakes basin. \$60,000 will be available for projects with a maximum request of \$10,000 per project. An initial payment of 50% will be available upon execution of a grant contract between the applicant and the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) and the remaining 50% paid upon satisfactory completion of grant deliverables.

Funding for GLSNRP ACPF in the Great Lakes is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)-led initiative designed to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the water resources of the Great Lakes basin. Funding is subject to the continued availability of U.S. federal government grants.

How to Apply:

To apply, send proposals via the application link available on the [“Apply for ACPF Planning Funding”](#) page found at nutrientreduction.org by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern) on Monday, April 27, 2026. A webinar for applicants will be offered and recorded on March 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern to discuss the application process, provide information on the ACPF, and ask questions of GLC staff. To register for the webinar, go to: <https://bit.ly/acpf2026>.

For questions regarding the proposal and eligibility, please contact Connor Roessler (croessler@glc.org).

Guidelines:

Eligible applicants within the Great Lakes basin demonstrating a need for enhanced conservation planning to achieve sediment and nutrient reduction goals are welcome to apply for funding. Funds from this grant program are intended to grow applicant capacity in the use of the [Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework \(ACPF\)](#) for conservation practice siting. Applicants must demonstrate their history of successful outreach to landowners for erosion and nutrient control projects. Applicants will be expected to produce an ACPF-informed outreach plan to engage landowners within one to two priority HUC-12 watersheds in their geography as their grant deliverable. In addition, at least one organization staff person is encouraged to complete the ACPF training offered by the [ACPF National Hub](#) and its partners.

Grant deliverables can include the following elements; however, the degree of completeness will vary based on the proposed usage of grant dollars and availability of ACPF data for the selected watershed(s):

- ACPF result data for selected watershed(s)
- A list of prioritized conservation practices or structural projects to improve local water quality
- The locations where these practices will be sited (protecting the privacy of any landowners)
- Anticipated timeline to implement these sited practices
- Strategies to engage landowners for the installation of the practices
- A description of how these sited practices would relate to existing government endorsed watershed plans or aid in the development of a plan

Funding may be spent on technical assistance for conservation staff to develop focused outreach plans and materials to optimize reduction of sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen runoff from agricultural land by engaging with landowners. Funding may also be spent on GIS licensing, software needs, or equipment costs (e.g., tablets or laptops, etc.) for applicants and costs associated with ACPF training or consulting.

Each proposal must utilize the application form provided. A budget and timeline should be included in the proposal to identify how up to \$10,000 will be utilized over one year (October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027).

General criteria for review:

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Need for conservation planning assistance
- Water quality needs in the selected HUC-12 watershed(s)
- Feasibility of completing proposed deliverables on time and within a reasonable budget
- Knowledge of GIS platforms commensurate with the selected grant option (see Additional Information section below)

Eligibility:

Indigenous Nations, nonfederal units of government, and incorporated nonprofit organizations within the United States portion of the Great Lakes basin are eligible for this funding opportunity. Applicants must be non-federal units of government or incorporated nonprofit organizations. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to conservation districts, county and municipal governments, regional planning commissions, and federally recognized tribes. Examples of eligible nonprofit organizations include watershed organizations, stream and lake associations, environmental groups, and other conservation-focused groups. Applicants must be authorized to enter into a contract with the GLC and provide mid-year and final reports on project expenses, activities, and other supporting documentation assuring achievement of the grant's goals.

In applying for funding, applicants also affirm their willingness to commit one representative to virtual meetings with GLC staff and other grantees at the start and end of the performance period.

Additional Information:

In deciding whether to apply for the ACPF in the Great Lakes grant program, applicants should explore the [ACPF Toolbox Version 7](#) before deciding which of the following three options to obtain ACPF outputs for their chosen HUC 12 watershed. Applicants can use ACPF outputs already available from the ACPF database if applicable; can contract with professionals to obtain ACPF results; or applicant staff can utilize the training and materials to run the ACPF model for themselves. The selected option will control the type and level of completeness of proposed deliverables. Please see more details about each of these options below:

1) Use existing data to identify conservation practices:

The ACPF National Hub provides a [database of watersheds](#) with existing ACPF model outputs. If your chosen HUC 12 watersheds are available from this dataset we encourage the use of these outputs in your conservation work. Also check with local and state agency partners to determine if existing data or ACPF model outputs have been developed for your watershed(s). GLC staff have collected some additional watersheds with available ACPF data not yet incorporated into the ACPF National Hub [available here](#).

2) Contract with a consultant to produce ACPF model outputs:

If your watershed(s) are not available in the existing database and your organization lacks GIS capacity to create your own set of data, we encourage the use of this list of [consultants](#) for contract work. Funding may be used to pay a consultant to produce an ACPF output. While a selected consultant does not need to be identified within the application for funding, applicants should make appropriate inquiries to understand contract costs in the event grant funds are awarded.

It is best to provide your chosen consultant with a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of your chosen watershed. The ACPF toolbox outputs are based on the Digital Elevation Model of your watershed, so it is important to use good data. The ACPF National Hub provides sources to find good DEM data at the bottom of this [webpage](#).

3) Build GIS capacity and expertise to produce ACPF model outputs:

If your organization is interested in building GIS capacity and ACPF expertise in-house, we encourage the use of funding for ArcGIS licensing and software needs, equipment, and staff technical assistance or training. Please be aware that an advanced understanding and use of GIS is required to properly run the ACPF toolbox and interpret its results. Due to the complexity of the ACPF, it is encouraged to run the toolbox for only one HUC 12 watershed to complete all deliverables within the one-year timeline.

To run the ACPF toolbox an Advanced version of ArcGIS Pro with the Spatial Analyst Extension is required. Please consider the cost of this version if running ACPF in house ([see here](#) for ArcGIS licensing information). Applicants are encouraged to download and use the [ACPF Toolbox Version 7](#), which is compatible with ArcGIS Pro Versions 3.0 and above.

The ACPF National Hub provides a wealth of information and opportunities for different types of [training opportunities](#) and guides for help running the ACPF on their website. We encourage the use of these materials whether you are awarded the grant or not, since the resources are all free.